

as it is with choice works of art, and fragrant with the memory of great poets and sages ; its internal arrangements bearing witness to the good taste and practical turn of Göthe, to whose splendid poetical genius a graceful tribute is rendered in one of the four "*Dichterszimmer*;" while the other three commemorate, also by beautiful paintings illustrative of their works, the great gifts of Schiller, Wieland, and Herder.

From Weimar the transition is quite natural to the subject of the present paper, since to the fostering hand of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, to whom, apparently, its very dust is dear, the Wartburg owes the preservation of every worthy relic of its eventful history, as well as restoration to all its ancient comeliness. And probably there are few buildings which surpass in interest of association the small picturesque palace-fortress which has for eight centuries towered on its rocky throne over the city of Eisenach, and which ranks as one of the most precious relics of the days of chivalry and minstrelsy. Here, too, we see the working of medieval piety in its purest form, and possess a leaf of the record—none the less stirring because written in characters unadorned and even rugged—of the abundant labours and perils of one of the bravest champions of liberty and truth.

The Wartburg is situated on the western spur of the range of hills covered by the Thuringian Forest. It stands 1250 feet above the level of the sea, and 600 above Eisenach ; and occupies an area of about 400 feet in length, by 120 in breadth. It is inaccessible from the south and west, where the perpendicular walls of rock, on which its foundations rest, render all outworks alike unnecessary and impracticable. At the foot of the rocky castle hill lies the town of Eisenach, from which the Wartburg may be gained by a good pedestrian in half an hour, by paths which, though steep and toilsome, are shady, and afford beautiful views of the surrounding country. You approach the entrance of the fortress by a bridge over a deep artificial chasm in the rock ; before crossing which it is customary to rest at the adjacent "*Wirthschait*," or restaurant, a never-failing adjunct to German show-places, and one which, though sometimes condemned as horribly prosaic and out of place, is nevertheless in practice highly appreciated by weary tourists. This "*Wirthschaft*," of recent erection, is said to be built in correct medieval style ; and must certainly be considered more appropriately situated than its predecessor, which occupied an ancient chamber of the castle in close proximity to its *sanctum sanctorum*,—Luther's room.

The bridge crossed, and the gothic doorway (of the fifteenth century, and to an uninitiated eye most quaint and venerable, though doomed to restoration) passed the *Vorbürg*, or outer court of the fortress, is gained ; then through it and a second vaulted doorway, the *Hofbürg*, or inner court. This was capable of independent defence, in event of the *Vorbürg* being taken by an enemy, and comprises the palace or *Landgrafenhaus*, the *Kemate*, or ladies' house, the belfry, the keep, and other objects of interest. Of these the structure of greatest antiquity and beauty is the palace. It is believed to have been built about the year 1070 by Count Ludwig der Salier, a prince of great account in his day ; though probably he owes some of his fame to legendary lore,—a source from which it seems impossible for even the patience of German research to separate historical truth in the records of the foundation of the Wartburg, and of much besides concerning it. The account generally accepted is that Ludwig, when hunting, struck with the capabilities of the hill on which the Wartburg stands for the site of a fortress, suddenly determined to build a castle there. When this purpose, getting wind, was not unnaturally demurred to by the owner of the soil, Ludwig met all objections by solemnly declaring that nowhere but on his own ground would he build his castle. A famine prevailing in the land, and labour at a discount, Ludwig hired men to convey, under cover of night, sufficient soil from his own domain to cover the chosen mountain-crest. This accomplished, he not only erected his stronghold, but after sundry changes of fortune bequeathed it to a long line of descendants—the powerful Landgraves of Thuringia.